

CLEAN VERSION OF CHANGES

Please cancel Claim 56 without prejudice and with right of re-entry into this application or any other application.

Kindly amend Claims 36, 38-42, 49, and 53 as follows.

sub 21  
36(Amended). An absorbent article having a front area and a rear area, and a central area between the front and rear areas, said absorbent article comprising:

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- (a) a liquid-permeable layer, which is turned toward a body of a wearer during use of the absorbent article;
  - (b) a liquid-impermeable layer, which is turned away from such body of such wearer during use of the absorbent article;
  - (c) an undulating layer disposed between the liquid permeable layer and the liquid impermeable layer and extending between the front area and the rear area;
  - (d) a liquid distribution layer disposed between the undulating layer and the liquid-impermeable layer, and extending between the front area and the rear area, said liquid distribution layer comprising at least one web of sheet material, said at least one web of sheet material having openings therein formed after fabrication of the respective web of sheet material; and
  - (e) a liquid storage layer between the liquid-impermeable layer and the liquid distribution layer, said liquid distribution layer transferring fluid to at least part of the liquid storage layer located in one or both the front area and the rear area of the absorbent article.

B2 sub C3 38(Amended). An absorbent article as in Claim 36 wherein the undulating layer selectively facilitates transfer of fluid into one or both the front area and the rear area of the absorbent article.

39(Amended). An absorbent article as in Claim 36, the undulating layer comprising undulations arranged so as to form transport channels extending along a longitudinal direction of said absorbent article.

40(Amended). An absorbent article as in Claim 36 wherein the undulating layer comprises an undulating strip of material, connected to said liquid distribution layer which bears the openings.

41(Amended). An absorbent article as in Claim 39 wherein the undulating layer is sufficiently pigmented that such pigment prevents visible discernment of the liquid storage layer.

42(Amended). An absorbent article as in Claim 36 wherein said at least one web comprises an uncreped through-air-dried material.

B3 sub C6 49(Amended). An absorbent article having a front area and a rear area, and a central area between the front and rear areas, said absorbent article comprising:

- (a) a liquid-permeable layer disposed toward a body of a user during use of the absorbent article;
- (b) a liquid-impermeable layer disposed away from such body of such user during use of the absorbent article;

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- (c) a liquid distribution layer, which comprises discrete passages therethrough, said discrete passages promoting movement of liquid toward the liquid-impermeable layer, said liquid distribution layer being disposed between the liquid-permeable layer and the liquid-impermeable layer; and
  - (d) a liquid storage layer disposed between the liquid-impermeable layer and the liquid distribution layer, said liquid distribution layer transferring fluid to at least part of the liquid storage layer of the absorbent article,

areas of said liquid distribution layer having passages defining openings (30) extending therethrough, said passages tapering inwardly toward the liquid storage layer and whereby the absorbent article (10) can transfer liquid from the liquid distribution layer (22) toward the liquid storage layer (24).

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53(Amended). An absorbent article as in Claim 50 wherein the additional strip of material comprises an uncreped through-air-dried material.

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